

WESSEX NEWS

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JUNE 16TH, 1936

PRICE TWOPENCE

THE EDUCATIONAL VALUE OF ENGINEERING

It is a characteristic of the Engineer's work that by the results of it is he definitely judged, more so perhaps than are most other men. If his work is successful few people notice it, although many benefit. If his work is unsuccessful the failure is manifest to many and their criticism is bitter. To an engineer the difference between getting a problem quite right or only half right is not the difference between 10 marks or 5, but between success and a failure which may involve many lives.

The nature of engineering work is a sequence of general planning, detailed calculations and a rather elaborate process of turning those calculations into practical form. Much engineering work depends largely upon previous practice, but in any new development the engineer has to rely upon general principles where there is no practice to guide him. Even then the data upon which he works is usually so comparatively indefinite that accurate calculation is not possible and his final decision must depend upon considerable common-sense judgment.

A great deal of the engineer's training consists in the acquisition of a knowledge of conventional practice and the method of doing things on a practical scale. The student who elects to take an Engineering Degree before beginning the quest of this practical knowledge is devoting three or more very valuable years to the process of getting to understand the fundamental general principles of Engineering and acquiring the ability to go on learning technical knowledge after the end of his Degree course. There is often considerable doubt as to whether a student of comparatively small mathematical ability is justified in waiting these three years before he proceeds to gain practical experience. It is possible that certain students who now take a Degree might have done equally well if they had proceeded immediately to practical work which probably seems much more attractive than the prospect of hard book work and thinking. It is, however, quite certain that any engineering student who is capable of taking the Degree course thoroughly, but who decides not to do so, is thereby surrendering an advantage which would have been of great assistance to him.

It has been pointed out above that a very large part of the Engineer's

work lies in giving practical effect to the designs which he has made. In this process he has to control a large number of men, often under conditions which are very difficult. The understanding and harmonious control of men is therefore much more important to the engineer than to many others. Every opportunity of studying the good and bad methods of other men exercising this control should be taken as a source of valuable experience.

The value of Modern Languages to an engineer is much greater than seems to be generally admitted, but for the engineer studying these languages the aim should be clear writing and conversation rather than the study of literature. If he is able to read and write fluently, and can make a visit abroad without serious handicap of language, he immensely extends the sources from which he can derive knowledge and also extends the number of appointments for which he is eligible.

It is interesting to contemplate the real educational value of Engineering by comparison with other subjects. By this educational value is intended, not the value in preparation for a life spent in practising the subject in question, but as a general process for developing and cultivating the mind, rendering the individual a useful and happy member of the community. It seems to me that an education which includes so much discussion and calculation of problems which can ultimately undergo the acid test of actual trial under practical conditions, compares very well with others in which the test of each step is less drastic.

Engineering itself, or even the study of great Engineering works, brings men into the closest contact with the realities of life and the behaviour of men under greatly varying conditions. Is it not possible that Engineering gives to a man a less narrow mind and a better balanced outlook on life than do certain other subjects which are studied for their educational value rather than for their direct future application? It is even possible that in studying Engineering a man may derive knowledge and a point of view, which is far more useful to his family and his home, than he could have acquired from other

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Ronald R. MacGibbon, Superintendent

sources. It is, however, exceptional to find a student studying Engineering primarily for its ultimate educational value.

Dr. Montefiore, in his contribution to the first number of *Wessex*, quoted in your issue of May 19, referred to the power which university education gives to a man in enabling him to test a situation and determine "Is this fair, is this one-sided, is this prejudiced, is this true?" Judged by that admirable test how does Engineering compare with other subjects?

T. R. C-B-C.

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WESSEX NEWS

Tuesday, June 16th, 1936.

Offices:

STUDENTS' UNION, UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE, SOUTHAMPTON.

Editor: Alastair Geddes.

Sports Editor: D. Tyerman, Esq.

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N. W. Hodgkinson.

EDITORIAL.

A few weeks ago, at the beginning of term, we wrote of the pleasures of Summer: now at this moment (Sunday morning) Summer seems to have come, but who is there to notice? Scarcely one or two, the rest go languidly and with bowed heads, or worse with artificial alacrity, across our path, dominated it would seem by one thought—Finals.

How uninteresting indeed is totalitarianism in any shape or fashion: in politics, morals, religion or even in our own distinguished minds. When the mind of a U.C.S. man becomes a totalitarian state, with finals as its Hitler, how dull is that usually scintillating cerebrum. Hell, damn and blast become its Heil, Heil, Heil, and Love, Life and True Learning are utterly outcast it, or at best allowed but a petty space of time as recreative activities for the tired warrior. Moreover, if we dare say it, how like totalitarianism in politics is this state of mind: where some very few embrace the Leader or the Handbook in true love, but the majority in base dissimulation or urged on by fear of worse ills should they not make obeisance. Does not this apply equally to this wretched exam?

Could not some nobler system be devised which should be entered upon with exultation instead of loathing? By how much then would our labours be of greater value to ourselves and the world.

* * * *

1. The Editor is not responsible for the views expressed in signed articles.

2. Correspondents are asked to make their letters as brief and to the point as possible.

3. The Editor regrets that, owing to lack of space, it is impossible to print Society reports unless they have genuine news value.

Truth about Local Fees

ALLEGATIONS
SATISFACTORILY DENIED.

The obvious unwillingness of students in any year to pay their Local Fees has, we believe, been due not entirely to the end-of-term inconvenience but also to a strong feeling that the fees were an unjustified extortion, mostly pure profit to the College. This annual question having again arisen, the time was opportune for us to make some investigation of these allegations. As a result we are able to report complete satisfaction as to the cause of these fees.

Every Local Centre for London University Examinations has to defray the entire costs of the examinations they hold with the exception only of the printing of the examination papers. In addition to any running costs which may be incurred, postage of both papers and answers, the invigilator's fees and any other expenses in which he may be involved have all to be paid by the Local Centre. The invigilator's fees are, of course, the largest item, but since he is paid by the day, his employment may be profitable at the beginning of an examination when a large number of people are all taking papers at once. However, the stringing out of papers taken only by a few people at a time, inevitable later, produces losses which compensate for any earlier gains. The final difference is therefore small and may as easily be a loss as a profit.

Because of the failure of students to pay their Local Fees at the right time, the late fee has this year been increased to five shillings. We hope that the information given above will help to remove the cause which made this step necessary.

some lofty and unapproachable being but one who could express the aims and desires of that group. The whole talk was extremely interesting, and it seemed a pity that the discussion afterwards was so brief and scrappy—possibly because the majority of the audience were still chewing over what Mr. Day Lewis had said.

Distinguished Opinion?

To the Editor.

The Tabernards Room,
The Queen's College,
Oxford.

Sir,

Wessex News is a good paper. I positively look forward to its arrival every week. The standard is very well maintained. I think the sports headlines are in the worst Beaverbrook tradition, but otherwise the whole thing seems to be excellent.

Sincerely

Walter Taplin.

Room 8,
University College.

Sir,

May I encroach on your valuable space to bring to the notice of men-graduates in psychology, economics, commerce or engineering two vacancies on the industrial fieldwork staff of the National Institute of Industrial Psychology. On appointment, successful applicants will be given six month's training with maintenance grant, beginning in July. Whether men striving for Diplomas in Education are psychologists in the meaning of the Institute I cannot here say.

Sincerely,

The Appointments Secretary.

Distinguished Poet at College.

A lecture which united in the one talk both Socialism and Poetry promised to be as interesting as it was unusual, and Mr. Day Lewis' address at the meeting arranged last week by the Socialist Society certainly came up to expectations.

Mr. Day Lewis spoke first of the origins of poetry as the expressions of self assertion of the impotent or maimed, and maintained that mythology was the wish-fulfilment of the group. This was a good beginning, and he went on to develop the theme of how since the bourgeois revolution poetry had become something 'separate', not meant for the ordinary man.

The aim of the Socialist or Communist poet was, he declared, to work within a group, not as

(continued in previous column)

GUIDE TO PIPPERS

A few questions and answers which we hope may be useful, so that Pippa Passes.

Q. Did Maria Theresa have a Pragmatic Sanction?

A. Yes, it was removed with her appendix.

Q. What was Excalibur?

A. Bismark's Bloody Iron.

Q. Give some account of the alcohols.

A. They are of three kinds: good—donbles, medium—singles, bad—half-and-half.

Q. Where did Alfred burn the cakes?

There are two possible answers (a) On the fire: This, as examiners have little liking for logic or feeling for common sense, is not advised.

(b) Arthur did it. This has advantages because no one quite knows where Arthur did anything, even if he did, which is doubtful.

Q. What do you understand by a neon.

A. A long period of time.

THE FLAGRANT MOMENT.

Finals.

Now comes at last the final test, when we are called to do our best, to show how well we've done our work, while slugs and did but sleep and shirk! Arise, arise! and let us don the gowns we'll wipe our pens upon! Come, let us leave our crams and cribs, and sally forth with furnished nibs that our examiners shall show how very little we don't know! Oh, why repine when finals come, when every busy cranial dome is wrapt in clouds of perspiration recalling sundry information? What use to curse those wasted hours, when all this nice blank paper's ours? Before us all our future lies, with job or dip—think not with sight upon the Pass List's narrow doors, nor with what Cerberian roars th' examiner in ambush waits, for he this loathly business hates as much as we do (were it not it's paid in cash upon the dot, and were it not the villain reck's he'll gather in some useful cheques). But think not on that hapless wight—he's sure to think your answers right, and, if you for such honours thirst, award you all a nice fat FIRST. Oh, think not, as the poets sing, that Finals will end everything!

Sympathy Hardt-Veldt.

Coming Shortly:

WEST SAXON

Thursday, June 25th

ATHLETIC UNION.

Swimming still unbeaten : Cricket still dull

Tennis Captain's Dual Role

COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER FINANCE

ATHLETIC UNION.

A meeting of the A.U. Committee on June 6th, at which the attendance was unusually large adopted the final clauses of the report on Ground Development. A further sub-committee on finance and estimating was set up to consist of the Senior Treasurer, the Junior Treasurer, The Secretary and the President of the S.C., it will meet when finals have ceased to cast their shadow.

SWIMMING.

Of the four teams which visited Goldsmith's College on their Spectacular Open Day, the swimmers were the most successful. The bad weather postponing the start of cricket and tennis made it possible for Collins to swim for the men and thereby making the fifth victory of the season even more decisive.

The gallery of the indoor bath was crowded with the parents and friends of our opponents. The women's events alternated with those of the men and were won outright by Goldsmith's. In the mens' events Russell gained an easy lead in the 100 metres and Morris took second place when Goldsmith's second string gave up after three lengths. Over 50 metres Goldsmith's had a narrow win from Cowling whose sprint swimming has improved remarkably during the past few weeks. In order to save time the breast and back stroke races were each limited to one length, but even so our swimmers proved their superiority. Collins won the breast stroke by a touch from Cochrane and Russell surprised us with an easy victory in the back stroke, showing that his remarkable speed in the water is not restricted to free-style swimming. The dives included one from a five metre board and were won by Cowling. Teams of five swam in the relay over five lengths. Goldsmith's were leading by quarter of a length with two to go when Russell entered the water. He caught up and passed his man leaving Morris with an easy swim to complete the fourth victory of the afternoon.

The last event of the match was the water-polo. The home team defended the shallow end, and indeed the water was shallow for our forwards were continually being pulled up for "standing." The only goal in the first half was scored by Goldsmith's. With our forwards in deep water in the

second half, Cochrane soon equalised from a corner when Russell failed to score. A few minutes later Russell put him in possession of the ball by a fine pass down the left wing and his shot was deflected for a corner from which he scored the second goal. Ten seconds before the end after a lively tussle in front of our own goal, Cochrane got the ball in the middle of the bath and scored for the third time. Thus for the first time in the records of the Club, Goldsmith's have been defeated at water-polo in their own bath.

Swimming Results.

1 U.C.S., 37 pts.

2 Goldsmith's, 22 pts.

100 metres free style—1 Russell,

2 Morris.

50 metres free style—2 Cowling,

3 Morris.

25 metres breast stroke—1 Collins,

2 Cochrane.

25 metres back stroke—1 Russell,

3 Owen.

Diving—1 Cowling, 4 Hodgkinson.

Relay—1 U.C.S. (Cowling, Shepherd, Marsh, Russell, Morris).

Next Saturday the Mens' Swimming Club are sending a team of four to compete in the U.A.U. Long Distance Open Water Championship at Reading.

CRICKET.

1st XI v Goldsmith's.

Owing to rain play did not begin until 1.40. Goldsmith's batted first on a matting wicket made very slow by rain. At lunch after some very slow batting Goldsmith's had scored 29 for 1. Our bowling without White was fairly steady but never hostile. Bignell kept a good length and kept the runs down because the Goldsmith's batsmen lacked scoring power. At 5 p.m. the home team declared at 130 for 5 leaving So'ton 1½ hours to get the runs. Francis was l.b.w. at 6. Downer and Robinson put on 35 quickly, then Robinson was yorked. At 46 Downer was out and then Keleher and Martin batting very slowly stayed together until the last ball of the game when Keleher was out having a go. Our final score was 80 for 5. A draw was a fitting result to a very dull game. Goldsmith's with a little more enterprise should have scored much quicker on a dead easy wicket—on the other hand So'ton

could comfortably have got the runs had they possessed more attacking batsmen as their opponent's bowling was very ordinary.

Scores : Goldsmith's, 130 for 5 dec. (Bignell 19 overs, 37 runs, 1 wicket).

So'ton, 80 for 5.

Downer 30, Keleher 15.

Athletics v
Winchester Harriers

This fixture was less strenuous than anticipated. The visitors being largely novices and very young. They did however show two notable performers, both athletes of great promise. Crofts who won the half-mile in 2.6.8 and the mile in 4.45, and Bradley who cleared 5ft. 5 in. in the high jump, 19ft. in the long jump, and won the hurdles. For the College Wallace was in his usual devastating form : there was no one to test him, as is the case too often for his best development as a sprinter, but he returned 10.6 for the hundred and 23.2 for the 220. The skill and judgment of young Crofts brought the best out of Atkinson in the half and Evans in the mile : both ran excellent races, better conceived actually than the winner, but both lacked speed at the critical point. In the 440 Robson again showed that flatish feet tell less against him over the shorter distance than in the mile : he won well in 56.6. In the long jump McMullan and Morton beat the inexperienced Barker by inches. College won by 35 points to 16.

TENNIS.

1st Team v Peter Symonds' Staff.

Wed., June 10th.

This game, played on the grass courts in rather unfavourable conditions, was lost by 2 events to 7. The Team was weakened by the absence of the 1st pair, and their presence would have made a considerable difference to the score. The fact that the balls were keeping much lower on the grass surface frequently lost our men points, used as they were to the consistent high bounce of the hard courts. This resulted in our pairs being upset throughout the afternoon, and our opponents playing much more steadily, profited by our mistakes.

On Saturday a Mixed 1st Team visited Goldsmith's. From the tennis point of view this game is negligible. The courts are, hopeless and the indifference of our opponents to finish the match, or even to field a full team, gave us the impression of being butchered to make a Roman holiday. It would be an excellent idea to drop this fixture in future years.

Results.

Men's 1st team v Peter Symonds' Staff—Lost, 2—7.

Women's 1st Team v Westend—Drawn, 3 all.

1st Team (Mixed) v Goldsmith's College—Drawn (unfinished).

Fixtures.

Wed., June 17th.

Men's 1st Team v Reading, away.

2nd Team (Mixed) v Portsmouth Municipal College, home.

Sat., June 20th.

Men's 1st Team U.A.U. match v Bristol, away.

2nd Team (Mixed) v Southern Railway (Eastleigh), away.

WANTED : A Cheap but Reliable second-hand Bicycle (ladies') : spot cash. Apply Southampton 67299 or Room 8.

No news is good news so they say, anyway who'd be surprised during "Finals" week. Hence the blank.

Correspondence.

The Editor of Wessex News,

Dear Sir,

Good manners are admittedly not a strong point in this College, but when the Mixed Common Room is used as the Common is used on a Saturday night, I feel some open protest must be made.

Love-making in public, although perhaps pleasant for those concerned, shows a complete lack of all thought for others and want of emotional control.

The Mixed Common Room was presumably provided for us as a place where we could meet socially and escape from the academic side of College life. It is a privilege that we all appreciate and which we should not abuse.

The friendship between both sexes which this College makes possible is a valuable thing, but it is nauseating to go into the Mixed Common Room to find the sofas occupied by couples entwined in each others arms. If those who are guilty of this behaviour would only realise that they are displaying a lamentable lack of breeding they might control themselves in the presence of other people.

Yours, etc.,
'Smith.'

The Editor of Wessex News,

Sir,

At the beginning of the session there was great talk of how the Union was being organised more into faculties: this showed itself practically in faculty dances but these dances, though arranged by Engineers, Science, etc., were not faculty functions, but merely dances for the whole College, organised by different bodies in turn. Now if it is seriously desired to foster greater union in the various faculties, surely some end of the year festivities, in particular dinners—which always contribute to corporate feeling could be organised by the various faculties, could be arranged between now and July 4th. Similarly at the beginning of the year there might be a parallel function, and if it be argued that two dinners a year

would come heavily on the purse, then cup of tea and half-penny buns: at present the only time faculties meet is to elect officers and this ten-minute gathering in a lecture room is surely not the best way to foster some genuine faculty feeling.

Yours, etc.,
B. S. G.

The Editor of Wessex News,

Dear Sir,

I find myself agreeing so strongly with Mr. Cottam's letter to the *Wessex News* last week, advocating that certain lectures of general cultural interest should be open to all students that I feel sure many others will be in agreement also. Surely the question thus raised should not be allowed to die as have so many similar suggestions mooted through your columns. A freer system of attendance at lectures on subjects such as music, literature, history and such lectures on the literature of a foreign country as would be intelligible to the uninitiated would help towards the liberal ideal of this College and perhaps dispel its rather depressing resemblance to a school and school-boyish attitude towards lectures. Cannot some active step be taken in this direction by someone in an official position who can put the matter before the senate in an effective form?

I. F.

The Editor of Wessex News,

Dear Sir,

In your last issue, Mr. Cottam raised his voice in favour of the opening of lectures to students outside the department for which they were specifically intended. May I ask him how he thinks under those circumstances we should ever pass our exams. If a man comes to College to read for a degree in History, then he should devote his energies to furthering his knowledge of History and ultimately to furthering the cause of History itself. This he could not do by attending Chemistry lectures however interesting they might be.

There has been a lack of specialisation by the English for a long time and Mr. Cottam's extraordinary suggestion would fill England with men with a 'little knowledge' of many things, but no special knowledge of anything. And, Sir, a little knowledge is a dangerous thing.

I am, etc.,
Caligula.

Scribe's Return

Now a certain youth in the east country said to his sire, "Father, I desire greatly to be made a knight, if that be possible." So his father pondered long thereon, and at length he said, "So let it be. Though it cost me dear, yet knighthood carries with it great wealth and honour." Then he wrote many letters to the high priest of the Land Between Itchen and Test: for there do men go to be dubbed knights. And finally, after long delay, the aforesaid youth was summoned to the court of Prinnee the King. So he bade farewell to his wise father and to his lady mother and to all his kindred, and set off for the Land. And on the way he met neither robbers nor giants, therefore he reached it in safety.

And there he met many others, young men, yea and women also, seeking knighthood. From all lands they came, and he could scarce understand the barbarous tongue of many; and he dwelt in the hall of the high priest, and was taught of the nobles of the land. Now these nobles, for their strength and uprightness, are named the Staff, and the youth marvelled greatly of their splendour.

And he lived in the Land for several years, and learned those things which are becoming in a knight: to wit, the torturing of those newly arrived in the Land, the entrance and leaving of Hall by night, the telling of jests, the eating of much food, and likewise dancing and many sports which were laborious to mention. Moreover he waxed doughty in battle, and he excelled above all in biting the hams of his adversary, and in wringing his nose: by which means he won many victories.

Now in the summer came the time of ordeal whereby knights are made, and wherein are asked many riddles full hard to be answered. They hold not the vigil in Church, but in a room large and bare, for many days together. And as the time drew near there was great fear and quaking among the youths. Even the most valiant trembled, yea and some lost all love of food. And so they held the vigil, and the sun beat fierce upon them, but they durst not even swoon, so great was their fear. Now when all was done, the youth and some few others were dubbed knights, but many, for that they could not read the riddles, remained but esquires and pages, as before. And rich gifts were given him, a sable robe adorned with silk, and a helmet, foursquare in shape, and he was proclaimed far and wide to be a true knight.

Then he rode forth: for he hoped earnestly to slay many dragons and to aid and set free all in distress. But none of these things came to pass: for he found many in distress, yet he increased

(Continued at foot of next column)

Calendar.

Tuesday, 16th June.

"Great English Divines": Lecture III by Prof. Pinto, in English Seminar Rm., at 11.0.

Wednesday, 17th June.

Public Lectures Comm.: at 2.30. Mens' and Women's Tennis v. Reading, away.

Thursday, 18th June.

Last date for payment of Local Fees B.A., B.Sc., B.E. (Econ.), B.Com., Science Faculty interviews Science students.

Friday, 19th June.

Students' Orchestra: Practice in Music St., at 5.0.

Saturday, 20th June.

Mens' and Women's Tennis v. Bristol, away.

Sunday, 21st June.

Collegiate Service: at S. Mary's, S. Stoneham, at 9.45. The Rt. Rev. the Lord Bishop of Zululand, Dr. T. W. Lee. Deutscher Verein: Excursion to New Forest, at 11.5.

Monday, 22nd June.

Terminal Exams begin. Engineering Diploma Exams begin.

Tuesday, 23rd June.

Halls and Refectory Comm.: at 2.30.

ELECTION RESULTS.

"West Saxon" Committee.
Secretary, P. D. Archard.

Common Rooms Committee.
Secretary, Miss G. Mead.

Nominations are required by 5.0 on Friday, June 19th for 2 women members (to be elected by the women) and 2 men members (to be elected by the men) of the Common Rooms Committee.

We regret that Professor Betts is at present ill at home with heart trouble. Though he is not seriously ill he will probably not be at College for a week or two. We wish him a rapid return to health.

The retirement of Mr. H. J. Tomlinson, B.Sc. (Lond.), Lecturer in Physics is announced.

their burden, and caused them to toil hard. And he set none free, for in process of time he was made a gaoler, and had in his charge many captives, whom he tormented sore; and he did all this for love of money. This is a shameful thing, and grievous to write, but thus it was with him, and thus it is with all knights who ride forth from the Land.

J. F. Gravett.

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